

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

In No. 396 of this Paper, we gave our Readers the Speech of Lord CHATHAM in the House of Lords on the 31st of May last, on his Motion to address the Sovereign to remove the accumulated Grievances of America, by immediately stopping Hostilities, and endeavouring to make Peace with the Colonies: The following are the Debates in the House of Lords on that interesting Subject.

THE Lord President spoke in opposition to the motion, observing that it led to throw a stigma not only on the conduct of government for the last ten years, but (as the measures of administration during that period had been countenanced and supported by an independent majority in both houses) on the people of this kingdom at large. His Lordship declared that he had been one among others who advised most of the measures adopted; that America had provoked the justice of Great Britain; that the acts complained of were founded in justice; and that America had all along disclaimed the legislative power of this country, and had endeavoured to alienate the affections of the King from his parliament, and to regard the regal power totally independent of, and superior to, that of the two other states of the realm. The clear aim of America was independence, and it was obvious that had been her aim from the beginning of the disputes. His Lordship, in reply to Lord Chatham, remarked, that the language of opposition varied with the times, and took its colour from the events of the day. The probability of France interfering had hitherto been a constant theme with the Lords on the other side of the house; some had said that she was actually preparing two years ago, and others had prophesied that she would strike the first stroke at such a particular period, a period long since past; whereas now, for the first time, the noble Earl had told their Lordships that France would have acted foolishly to have begun before, and that the time was not yet come, but that it must arrive, and then she would certainly overwhelm us with her power. After laughing at this change of sentiments, his Lordship turned to more serious arguments; assured the house that there was every prospect of a successful campaign that could be desired; that administration hoped the consequence of the campaign would be a proper and happy accommodation; and that, although it was not possible to assert what steps France would take hereafter, it was not likely that she should hostilely interfere at present, and that, upon every application to the Court of Versailles, the English ambassador had received the amplest satisfaction. As matters, therefore, were in so good a train, his Lordship declared he could not accord with a motion, which was more likely to overturn every measure lately adopted, and consequently to defeat the happy prospect before us, than to serve either Great Britain or America.

The Duke of Grafton rose in reply. He congratulated the house, and the nation at large, on the return of the noble Earl, who made the motion, to his duty in Parliament. A dawn of joy broke in on his mind, in finding that the spirit which was formerly wont to pervade every part of the kingdom, and had long slept, now revived, and shewed it was not entirely extinct; he meant that love of liberty, that admiration of the man, who had been its warmest advocate, and who had raised the power, dignity, and splendor of the nation, to a pinnacle of fame and greatness unknown to any other in any quarter of the globe. He contemplated, with heart-felt pleasure, the revival of that spirit, which could collect so very respectable an appearance, below the bar, of gentlemen of all parties, which could crowd the avenues leading to the house, so as not to leave sufficient room for their Lordships to come to their seats, unless with the utmost difficulty. He was doubly happy in being satisfied, from what had appeared, that the people still retained a grateful sense of the high obligations the nation owed the great man; and he was assured that nothing could save this nation from certain destruction, but the calling the noble Earl into a public situation, which might give his Lordship an opportunity of acting once more the part of the saviour of his country. He controverted every argument made use of by the noble Earl who spoke before

him, relative to the ultimate object of American independence. He knew well whence those doctrines originated. Nothing was easier said. All the noble Lord had to do was to broach them. He knew the noble Lord's (supposed to mean Lord Mansfield) power and influence to be great; his abilities were acknowledged; yet, with all his power and abilities, he desired either him, or the noble Earl who spoke last, to adduce a single substantial proof to shew that America ever aimed at independence. He would not pretend to say what might be the particular sentiments of a few ambitious or rash individuals, but he put it on the fair ground of their public professions; upon the declarations contained in their petition to the King, which petition was presented by Governor Penn to Lord Dartmouth, who, by his Majesty's directions, laid it before that house; which, though full of the most warm and loyal sentiments of duty and respect, both for his Majesty and Parliament; though containing the sense of thirteen great and flourishing colonies, whose petition deserved some attention, was rejected with marks of indignity and contempt.

[Lord Gower insisted that the petition contained no specific acknowledgment, farther than what he had stated; a promise to submit to the operation of acts for restraining their commerce, pursuant to the general scheme of the act of navigation.]

Here his Grace moved to have the petition read, as entered on the journals on the 10th of November, 1775, when Mr. Penn was called to the bar to authenticate it. The petition, after some opposition, was read. His Grace then proceeded. He observed, that if any thing were wanting to corroborate the contents of the above paper, it was the examination of Mr. Penn the day it was entered on their Lordships Journals. That Gentleman, by birth an Englishman, unconnected with party, Governor of the wealthiest and most populous province on the whole American continent, resident in the very city where the Congress, the framers of this petition, then actually deliberated and determined, acquainted personally with almost every single member of that Congress, well acquainted with the state and disposition of the people under his Government, and well informed respecting the state and disposition of every other government on the British American continent; this Gentleman, without any temptation or bias on his mind, but what might be supposed to operate against America, not in its favour: This Gentleman came to their Lordships bar, and corroborated, nay, according to the interpretation of the noble Earl who spoke last, went much farther, and contradicted, upon his oath, the most distant idea of any notions of independence whatever in the Congress. On the contrary, he affirmed, from his own knowledge, that no such design was thought of or framed within his own government, nor by what he could learn by any other, either in Congress or elsewhere, with the general exception of a few factious, violent, rash, or ambitious individuals, the well known appendages of all civil commotions. His Grace observed likewise, in a part of that Gentleman's evidence, which unhappily for this country was equally discredited, and equally disbelieved, by those who ought to have taken care to be better informed, that was the general unanimity of the people, and their great strength and resources. The day that petition was dismissed without hearing and redress, the day that Gentleman's evidence was disregarded, is the epoch of our present impending misfortunes. Independence only existed in the brains and speeches of a few individuals here, who had the influence and art to make themselves believed and obeyed. When therefore the Congress and people of America found themselves neglected by their Sovereign, despised, maligned, and trampled on by Parliament, and unconditional submission or independence made the only alternative; that, says his Grace, has been the date of the ruin which now seems ready to burst on us. I laboured all I could at the time to soften the rigour of administration; I intreated; I supplicated; I followed even that refusal with another supplication, to know the force we had to contend with; at least to know the force we were ourselves able to send, or had sent against the colonies. Failing in both supplications, and